

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 H-01 PA-01
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R 111230Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8656
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0582

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, IN, UK, US
SUBJECT: INDO-SR-BRITISH NUCLEAR RELATIONS

REF: (AJT NE/SA WIRELESS FILE 6; (B) STATE 6596; (C) NEW DELHI
0437

1. JANUARY 11 STATESMAN HEADLINES WARREN UNNA'S STORY FROM
WASHINGTON REPORTING THAT US OFFICIALS WERE SKEPTICAL OVER THE
SIMON WINCHESTER DESPATCH FDREF -) IN THE WASHINGTON POST RE-
PORTING BRITISH PM CALLAGHAN'S ACCOUNT OF DESAI'S CONDITIONS
FOR SAFEGUARDS. (SIGNING OF THE CTB BY THE US, USSR AND UK)
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ACCORDING TO UNNA, US OFFICIALS SAID THAT EITHER CALLAGHAN OR
WINCHESTER HAD MISSED THE POINT. UNNA REPORTED THAT THEY
SAID BEGIN QUOTE DESAI'S -- AND INDIA'S -- POSITION HAD BEEN
CONSISTENT ON LDREE POINTS; THERE MUST FIRST BE A COMPREHEN-
SIVE TEST BAN TREATY, A COMMITMENT BY THE NUCLEAR POWERS TO
NO ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS; AND A GRADUAL
MOVE TOWARD OVERALL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. WITH THESE THREE

PRECONDITIONS, INDIA THEN WOULD NO LONGER FEEL DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN AGREEING TO INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION AND SAFEGUARDS OF ALL OF HER NUCLEAR FACILITIES.

THE US OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE FIRST CONDITION -- A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY -- WOULD SOON BE MET, SO THERE WAS NO STICKLER THERE. AND IF SALT II WAS AGREED TO THIS YEAR BY THE SOVIET UNION, THE USA AND BRITAIN THE TREATY, BY DEFINITION, WOULD LIMIT NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT A SALT II AGREEMENT HAD PROVED PARTICULARLY ELUSIVE. AND INDIA'S THICK PRECONDITION, AN ACTUAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT CUTBACK, IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE. END QUOTE.

2. UNNA'S STORY WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN FILED BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT'S JANUARY 10 BRIEFING (REF B) WENT ON TO NOTE THAT BEGINS

QUOTE AS FOR WHAT THE WINCHESTER DESPATCH SEEMED TO EMPHASIZE IN MR. CALLAGHAN'S REMARKS AFTER HIS TALKS WITH MR. DESAI -- NO LONGER INSISTING ON FRENCH AND CHINESE PARTICIPATION -- U.S. OFFICIALS SAID MR. DESAI, FROM THE BEGINNING, HAD NEVER BEEN PRECISE ABOUT INSISTING THAT FRANCE AND CHINA WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN A TEST BAN TREATY.

OVERALL, U.S. OFFICIALS HERE TRIED TO BE DIPLOMATIC TOWARD AMERICA'S BRITISH ALLY BY SAYING THAT WHAT MR. CALLAGHAN GOT OUT OF MR. DESAI WAS FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT "HE HASN'T CLOSED THE DOOR" ON MOVING TOWARD SOME SORT OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT.

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THE SITUATION SEEMED TO BE JUST ABOUT WHERE IT WAS WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER GOT MR. DESAI'S VIEWS FIRST-HAND DURING HIS NEW DELHI VISIT. END QUOTE

3. WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHY "US OFFICIALS" WOULD BE SCEPTICAL ABOUT WINCHESTER'S REPORT, WHICH RUNS CONTRARY TO OTHER ACCOUNTS OF WHAT CALLAGHAN PUBLICLY SAID DESAI HAD TOLD HIM AND WHAT THE TWO PM'S PRIVATELY AGREED CALLAGHAN SHOULD SAY IF QUERIED (REF :G

OUR DOUBTS ABOUT WINCHESTER'S RELIABILITY ARE HEIGHTENED BY HIS ACCOUNT OF AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY DESAI TO HIM AND SEVERAL OTHER BRITISH REPORTERS WHO COVERED THE CALLAGHAN VISIT. WINCHESTER TOLD US THAT DESAI HAD SAID THAT WHAT DESAI REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS WAS AGREEMENT BY THE US, UK, AND USSR ON A CTB, IN OTHER WORDS, THE SAME CONDITION HE SAID IN HIS DESPATCH DESAI HAD GIVEN CALLAGHAN. PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF THIS INTERVIEW DIFFER WIDELY, AND HAVE ADDED TO THE CONFUSION HERE. A BRITISH HIGH COM OFFICER HAS EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT WINCHESTER'S REPORT TO US, AND WILL TRY TO GET AN ACCURATE VERSION FOR US WHEN OTHERS WHO WERE AT THE DESAI INTERVIEW RETURN FROM BOMBAY.

4. AS FOR WHAT DESAI REALLY SAID TO CALLAGHAN, WE WILL BE
MEETING TOMORROW WITH THE BRITISH DCM HERE TO GET THE PROMISED
POST-VISIT BRIEFING. WE WOULD EXPECT AS COMPLETE AN ACCOUNT
AS THEY THEMSELVES HAVE GOT. FURTHER INFO MAY,
OF COURSE,
SURFACE IN LONDON AFTER CALLAGHAN RETURNS THERE FROM HIS VISIT
TO PAKISTAN.
GOHEEN

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